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This book contains sixty-one selected editorials covering a great variety of topics, from *The Baltimore News*. They are arranged by years beginning with 1894-1895 and ending with 1907-1908. From three to five are selected from each year, except the year 1898, which has eight. There are four longer papers; three of these were first given as addresses—Newspapers and Exact Thinking, James Joseph Sylvester, A Defect of Public Discussion in America; and one essay, The Intellectual Powers of Woman, which was reprinted from the *North American Review*, 1898.

One could well wish that leaders in our important city dailies would always come up to the splendid pattern of editorial writing here furnished. Franklin's editorials are fine examples of the short essay; they are of an average length of about four pages. As the title adopted for the book suggests, most of the editorials are on distinguished persons and on economic, political and social problems. Severely classical in his principles of political economy, he is catholic in tone.

The volume affords stimulating reading.

I. A. L.

State University of Iowa.

The Chemistry of Commerce. By ROBERT KENNEDY DUNCAN.
(New York: Harper and Brothers, 1907. Pp. 263. \$2 net).

A series of popular essays upon the chemistry of certain industries, by the professor of industrial chemistry of the University of Kansas. The author's purposes are to lead manufacturers to employ chemistry more fully, and to stimulate young chemists to enter the field of industrial chemistry. The book seems, however, to be addressed to the general reader.

To command the attention of manufacturers we should expect a book upon industrial chemistry to discuss the financial and commercial conditions under which it can be introduced. We should look for it to include a statement of the cost of chemical laboratories, the functions of a chemical department of a works, the value of scientifically drawn buyer's specifications, problems of standardization (other than for drugs), conditions governing the utilization of by-products. We should certainly expect something

on the problem of combustion and special treatment of such leading manufactures as iron, textiles, provisions, pottery, flour, etc. One will look in vain, however, for a treatment of these subjects.

There is much that is good in the book. It gives evidence that the author is well posted and enthusiastic on his subject. So far as the student of chemistry is concerned, however, it is too popular to be taken very seriously. Processes are described in very general terms and the treatment is not sufficiently systematic nor comprehensive.

The style is not all that could be desired. There is a trying repetition of such words as "parlous," "apposite" and "purlieus;" and some exuberances of style might be pruned to advantage such as "foregather with," used in the sense of "discuss," "mislikeable," and "forwarder" used as an adverb.

This book leaves the way still open for the much-needed university text on industrial chemistry, which shall give young men who are to become general officers of manufacturing corporations a decent knowledge of the subject and make them intelligent employers of professional chemists. It is to be hoped that the author will follow up this book with such a text.

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The Evolution of New China. By WILLIAM N. BREWSTER. (Cincinnati: Ohio Western Methodist Book Concern, 1908. Pp. vi, 316. \$1.25).

The author of this interestingly written volume has manifested a degree of sympathy for Chinese history and institutions which is rather uncommon in recent treatises on the Orient, and for this very reason such adverse criticism as he makes will probably be found inoffensive to the best lover of China. Mr. Brewster is a missionary to China and for that reason his volume deals very largely with ethical and religious questions; but the first half of his book is devoted to a careful survey of political and industrial conditions in China and furnishes a basis for the author's general conclusions.